

City Manager's Report

City of College Station

What's Going On?

Update on the Veterans Park and Athletic Complex

Special points of interest:

- *Update on Veterans Park*
- *Honoring our Police Force in the Brazos Valley*
- *Citizens' Fire Academy 2002*
- *Update on Street Projects*

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In November 2001, the City Council awarded a contract, in the amount of \$2,936,800, for the Phase I development, which includes the construction of six (6) adult soccer fields (two (2) of which are lighted), restrooms, two (2) lighted adult softball fields, a small maintenance building, park entrance, roads, parking areas and landscaping.

The early construction efforts were directed toward installation of utilities and site grading. All of the athletic fields have been constructed and the turf has been sprigged. The sport lighting has been completed. The paving of the parking lots and roadways is expected to be complete by mid-June. Also, the maintenance and restroom

buildings will be complete by early July. The remainder of the project construction will include the installation of sidewalks, landscaping, site lighting, and signage. The turf grass growth has been hampered due to the lack of rainfall. The contractor is expecting to complete Phase I before the term of the contract expires in late September, and the Parks and Recreation Department is expecting the first athletic field use in early 2003.

The development of a Brazos Valley Veterans Memorial is being coordinated through the Arts Council of Brazos Valley and a separate veterans committee. The sculpture

has been sent to the bronzing foundry in New York for casting and is expected to be complete in July and has an anticipated delivery during the first week of August. The committee has exceeded the stated goal of raising \$500,000 for the memorial project.



City Council attends Strategic Planning Retreat

On May 28 and 29, the City Council and staff attended a City sponsored strategic planning retreat. During the two-day retreat, Councilmembers discussed their visions for the future of College Station. The Council then identified a number of strategies to

guide City staff in reaching these goals. The Strategic Plan is a multi-year document that prioritizes key issues of importance to current and future City operations and capital projects. The items that the Council identified and incorporated in the

plan during the retreat will be included in an updated Strategic Plan, which the Council will consider in July. The retreat took place in Independence, Texas at the Heartland Inn.

Citizens' Fire Academy 2002 Graduation



Twenty-two Citizens Fire Academy participants and their families filled the College Station City Council Chambers on May 13, 2002 for a graduation dinner and ceremony. Mayor Ron Silvia and City Manager Tom Brymer attended and gave brief speeches on civic involvement. Mayor Silvia attended the Charter class of the Citizens Fire Academy in Spring 2000. This is the Fire Academy's third year. The Mayor, City Manager, and the Fire Chief, presented graduation certificates to all participants. An original video

was shown highlighting CFA participants in their firefighter gear inside a burning building, climbing ladders, intubating victims, operating hoses, and demonstrating many other life-saving skills. The Fire Marshal honored Harvie Cheshire and Dan McNeill of the Texas Engineering Extension Service – Emergency Services Training Institute with the Fire Department's annual "Starfish Award." TEEX Emer-

gency Services Training Institute has been tremendously supportive of the College Station Fire Department by allowing Citizen's Fire Academy, Citizen's University, and City employees to train at their facilities. Citizen's Fire Academy is a 14 week academy for people who reside or work in the Brazos Valley and want to know more about the Fire Department and be involved with the long-term safety of our community. Participants of this academy learn emergency medical services, use fire hoses, perform the physical agility test, try a smokehouse, and fight a live house fire at the Emergency Services Training Institute.

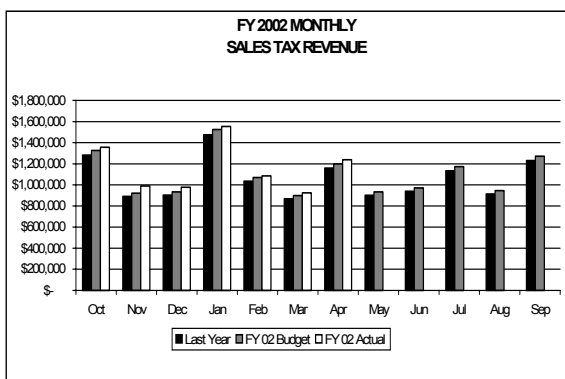
Update on the City's Athletic Programs

College Station and Bryan Parks and Recreation Departments have begun a joint youth volleyball program. This is a pilot program being offered for the first time this summer and the numbers have already completely exceeded expectations. The two Cities hoped to have about 64 kids participating in the program and as of May

22, there were over 120 kids registered. The adult volleyball program is also on the upswing as we have 26 teams registered for Session 2. Athletic programs are off to a great start and will only get better, since the City will be hosting many state, regional, and national softball tournaments throughout the course of the summer.

The adult softball registration has just ended and the City has 163 teams registered for the summer. This is in comparison to 135 teams registered last year. The Parks and Recreation Department is very excited about this growth and is hoping to continue this upward swing in athletic participation.

April Sales Tax Revenue Report



FY 2002 Monthly Sales Tax Revenue

Sales tax receipts for April 2002 were \$1,237,194.56. This is 6.73% above the same month last year. April receipts reflect sales that occurred in March.

Sales tax collections for FY 02 YTD are \$8,121,560.75 or 6.66% above FY 01 collections. Sales tax receipts remain higher than last year at the same time. Sales tax revenues are 3.13% higher than the FY 02

budget estimate for the first 6 months of the fiscal year.

Honoring our Police Force in the Brazos Valley

On May 15, 2002 the College Station Police Department, in conjunction with the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley and all Brazos Valley Law Enforcement agencies, hosted the 15th Annual Police Officer Memorial Ceremony. The event took place at the College Station Police Department. In 2001, 228 law enforcement officers were killed in

the line of duty including the 70 officers who died on September 11 in New York City. Those 228 deaths represent the most officers killed in the line of duty since 1975 and the sixth deadliest year in law enforcement history. In 1994 Congress and the President passed a law that requires flags to be flown at half-staff on May 15 of each year to honor those

law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty. State Representative Fred Brown was the keynote speaker and Mike Wright was the master of ceremonies. Representatives from the Arts Council of the Brazos Valley were on hand to present a Memorial Sculpture that is now placed in the front of the Police Department.



**"Service with Honor"
Memorial Statue**

Emergency Medical Service Week held this Month

The week of May 19-25, 2002 was Texas EMS Week, as a part of Texas Trauma Awareness month held during the month of May. During this week, the Fire Department and the Texas Department of Health reminded citizens that emergency medical teams provide life-saving links between ill or injured individuals and medical

care in College Station. As part of EMS Week, the College Station Fire Department hosted an Open House on May 21 at each of the fire stations. Blood pressure monitoring and glucose screening were conducted at these stations. EMS is a vital public service, a system of care for victims of sudden and serious illness or injury. This system depends on the

availability and coordination of many different elements, ranging from an informed public capable of recognizing medical emergencies to a network of trauma centers capable of providing highly specialized care to the most seriously ill or injured. The 9-1-1 emergency number, search and rescue teams, and pre-hospital and emergency department personnel are some of the critical elements necessary for the EMS system to work.

College Station held a Bike Loop Dedication

The City of College Station dedicated the newly completed portion of the "Wayne Bryan" Bike Loop in Central Park on May 11, 2002. The ceremony provided the unveiling of a plaque honoring a former citizen of this community that was a strong supporter of cycling activities.

Wayne Bryan, a local cyclist and businessman, brought together cyclists of all ages. Mr. Bryan was very active in the community and owned Aggieland Cycling. He was known throughout the entire community as an avid cyclist and advocate for cycling. On August 10, 1997, Mr. Wayne was hit by car and killed

while cycling on Highway 30.

The City implemented a long-range bike-way master plan and on September 27, 2001, the College Station City Council approved the naming of that bike loop as "The Wayne Bryan Bike Loop."

College Station Utilities Encourages Customers to "Discover the Wonder of Water"

College Station Utilities celebrated "National Drinking Water Week" and "Water Utilities Awareness Week" May 5-11, 2002. The American Water Works Association and the Texas Water Utilities Association sponsored the annual water awareness week with the goal of helping people understand the importance of safe drinking water. This year's theme for Drinking Water Week was "The Wonder of Water."

College Station Utilities distributed its 2001 Drinking Water Quality Report to coincide with National Drinking Water Week and Water Utilities Awareness Week. The report contains information about the source of College Station's water, for instance what substances were detected in the water in 2001 and the

possible sources of those substances, and how College Station's water compares to federal and state standards. The report was mailed to all water customers and is posted on the College Station Utilities website at <http://pub.ci.college-station.tx.us/Wqualitypage.htm>.

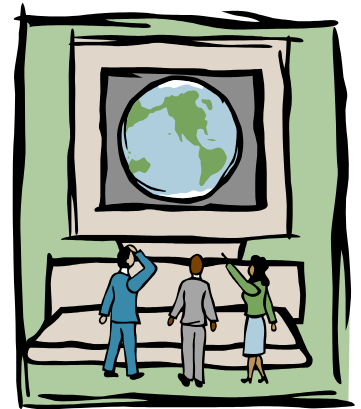
The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments require that, beginning in October 1999, all community water systems provide customers with an annual report on the quality of their drinking water. The law calls this report a Consumer Confidence Report but they are also referred to as Drinking Water

Quality Reports. The first reports had to be issued by October 19, 1999 and all subsequent reports must be issued to water utility customers by July 1 each year. The reports contain data on regulated and non-regulated substances found in drinking water in the previous calendar year, a description of the source of the water, and list opportunities for the public to contact their water system to obtain more information about their drinking water.

Cooperative Sharing of Information Technology Solutions

Our MIS Division designed an in-house software for our Emergency Operation Center Operations. This in-house software was written in MS ACCESS 97 software and is designed to track events during an emergency and provide the proper scenario for that particular event. Prior to this software, EOC Operations were done manually through a cumbersome reporting system in order to track these events. We are sharing this software with the City of Bryan to assist

in their EOC Operations. Our MIS Division is in contact with the City of Bryan's Information Technology consultants to possibly discuss future cooperative opportunities in the technology field.



Phase I of the Dartmouth Extension Project

Update on Street Projects

Phase I of the Dartmouth Extension Project is nearing completion. The project will extend Dartmouth from its current terminus about 800 feet south of Southwest Parkway to Krenak Tap Road. The project was scheduled for completion at the end of June, but is a month

ahead of schedule. Once pavement markings and streetlights are installed, the street will be opened to traffic.

The Rock Prairie Road Re-Alignment project is nearing completion. The contract for construction was awarded in August of 2001. The Rock Prairie

Road Re-Alignment provides a direct connection of Rock Prairie Road from State Highway 6 overpass east to the current intersection of Rock Prairie and Stonebrook Drive. The project includes two lanes of traffic, a median, storm drainage and master planned water distribution facilities.

BVSMA Encourages Residents to "Take the Hazards Out of Your House"

The Brazos Valley Solid Waste Management Agency (BVSMA) invited area residents to get rid of hazardous waste in their homes at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection on May 18, 2002. The collection took place at the Brazos Center.

Residents from Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Leon, Madison, Robertson and Washington counties were able to safely dispose of hazardous household wastes free of charge. These wastes included items that were flammable, reactive, corrosive or

toxic. Solvents, pesticides, caustic cleaners, used motor oil and batteries were examples of the different types of household hazardous waste that were accepted. Tires, medical waste, radioactive waste, household garbage, 55-gallon drums, compressed gas cylinders, ammunitions and explosives were not accepted.

Many household cleaners, pesticides, paints, pool chemicals, and automotive products contain substances that can be hazardous to people and the

environment if they are not handled and disposed of properly. BVSMA sponsored a mercury thermometer exchange during the collection.

The program was free, environmentally responsible and provided individuals a chance to protect their local environment. All participants received information on less hazardous alternatives to common hazardous household wastes.

The Household Hazardous Waste Collection was sponsored by the BVSMA Rock Prairie Road Landfill in partnership with the Cities of College Station and Bryan, Brazos Valley Council of Governments, and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC).

Senior Citizen Academy held this Month

The College Station Police and Fire Departments held a graduation for the first Senior Citizen Police and Fire Academy on May 23, 2002. The festivities were held at "The Exit" Teen Center, located in the Southwood Athletic Park on Rock Prairie Road. Fire Chief Giordano discussed the Fire Department's five-year-plan and Assistant Police Chief McCollum discussed the Police Department's five-year-plan. These presenta-

tions were followed by a graduation luncheon. The Academy was developed to help senior citizens in the area learn more about their Police and Fire Departments as well as learning tips to help them stay safe. The Academy lasted eight weeks and participants were exposed to operational issues in both Departments as well as

given valuable safety information. Each participant was also certified in CPR during the course of the Academy.

Installation of Intergenerational Benches Underway

Brison park is currently seeing intergenerational improvements, which includes new lights, benches, drinking fountains and a new bridge.

The cost of these improvements is \$36,138. These are part of an overall project that is over \$140,000 and includes other parks such as

Merry Oaks and Gabbard. Gabbard Park will receive these improvements but will also receive new trees. Eighteen new benches have been ordered and received and are ready to be installed in several parks in the community. Oaks, W.A. Tarrow,

Central, Lions, and Cy Miller Parks will also receive some of these new steel benches as a part of the intergenerational project.

The City Council identified as a part of its strategic planning process the need to make City parks more intergenerational in nature with more passive recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages.



New Bench at Brison Park



What's Going On?

City Manager's Report City of College Station

Embracing the Past, Exploring the Future

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Shining Moments

- *Cynthia Sciulli, a buyer for the City's Purchasing Division, has achieved the Accredited Purchasing Practitioner (A.P.P.) designation. The accreditation was given by the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and was earned by passing a rigorous examination and by demonstrating a combination of education and relevant work experience.*
- *Fred Rapszyk, Battalion Chief received a thank you letter from Kim Jackson of Blinn College for his recent participation in Blinn College's Critical Incidence Response Team Meeting.*
- *The members of Fire Station #1 recently received a thank you letter for their contribution during Texas A&M's Big Event 2002.*
- *Our City Manager received an e-mail from Mike Ball of College Station Independent School District. Mr. Ball complimented our City crews who quickly responded and fixed an electrical problem at A&M Consolidated High School. The quick response enabled students to finish the school day and not have to be sent home.*

College Station Continues Free Music Series

The month of May featured additional installments of the College Station Utilities Starlight Music Series. The Starlight Music Series at the Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater is a series of 11 different free concerts organized to appeal to a wide variety of musical tastes.

The month of May featured Grupo Vida and the second concert featured the Bellamy Brothers.

The country music favorites brought in an audience estimated at 6,000 people. In April, Jerry Jeff Walker played to over 7,500 people. The goodwill created by the series can be seen in the

positive comments our staff have received from attendees and from an article that was published in *In Site* magazine regarding the music series. The remaining dates and acts are as follows:

**June 1 Trout Fishing in America
with Ruthie Foster**

**June 8 Vince Vance and the Val-
iants**

**June 15 The Back Porch 2nd
Anniversary Special**

**June 22 Ian Moore with Hayden
Sayers**



June 29 Big Otis

**July 13 The Killer Bees with
Bobby Hall**